UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

The Tuesday Noon Series is made possible in part by a generous gift from Dianne W. Henderson.

OraSTORYo!

A celebration of ensembles presented by the Fourth-Year Oratorio class, led by Dr. Darryl Edwards; with pianist Narmina Efendiyeva.

Sopranos: Victoria Chan, Arushi Das, Théa Nappert, Megan O'Donnell; Mezzo-Sopranos: Elizabeth Gilerovitch, Sofia Bolonna; Tenor: Luca McCauley; Baritone: Owen Phillipson; DMA Conducting Student: Hanwen Liang

Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, at 12:10 pm | Walter Hall

PROGRAM

The Light of the World

Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)

Prologue:
There shall come forth a rod (Chorus)

Bethlehem:
Recitative:
There were shepherds
Luca McCauley, *tenor*
Fear not
Elizabeth Gilerovitch, Sofia Bolonna, *mezzo-sopranos*

Chorus of Angels: Glory to God in the Highest
Chorus of Shepherds: Let us now go even unto Bethlehem

Blessed art thou among women
Owen Phillipson, *baritone*

My soul doth magnify the Lord
Victoria Chan, Arushi Das, Théa Nappert, Megan O'Donnell, *sopranos*

Elijah

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Woe, woe unto them who forsake him
Elizabeth Gilerovitch, *mezzo-soprano*

Sokhi Bhaabona Kaahare Bole

Anjan Ganguly (b. 1970)

Arushi Das, *soprano*

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

As part of the Faculty's commitment to improving Indigenous inclusion, we call upon all members of our community to start/continue their personal journeys towards understanding and acknowledging Indigenous peoples' histories, truths and cultures. Visit indigenous.utoronto.ca to learn more.

Homesickness

黃自 Huang Tzu (1904-1938)

Victoria Chan, *soprano*

Considering Matthew Shepard

Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

Luca McCauley, *tenor*

The Atonement

Samuel Coleridge Taylor (1875-1912)

O Pilate!... I dreamt that He who meekly stands

Théa Nappert, *soprano*

Messiah

Georg Frideric Händel (1685–1759)

But who may abide the day of his coming?

Owen Phillipson, *baritone*

Cry Out, Lullaby

Myroslav Volynsky (b. 1955)

Sofia Bolonna, *mezzo-soprano*

King David (Le Roi David)

Arthur Honegger (1892-1955)

The Death of David

Megan O'Donnell, *soprano*; Chorus; Hanwen Liang, *conductor*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Student Composer Concert
Jan. 20, 7:30pm | Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building

The Tuesday Noon Series: New Music Festival: Canadian Art Song Showcase *
Jan. 27, 12:10 pm | Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building

The Tuesday Noon Series:
Exploratory Year, Music Education, and Interdisciplinary Music Studies in Performance *
Feb. 3rd, 12:10 pm | Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Sakhi Bhavana says why?
Text: Rabinidranath Tagore (1861-1941)

What do you mean by 'Thought', my dear.
What do you mean by 'Pain' either.
What is that you yell 'Love' for,
What the word 'Love' means,
Is it saturated with pain?
Is that synonymous with tears or sigh of sufferings?
It is surely a wonder, why it fascinates people.
To my eyes everything is pleasing.
All are youthful, all are free from filth.
Blue sky, green parks, elaborate moonlight, tender blossoms –
All alike myself.
They laugh and sing all the time,
Face certain death delightfully smiling.
They know not sobs, neither fascinated to pains.
Flowers fall apart giggling, moonlight vanish while smiling,
Stars in the sky go out of vision in the ocean of light.
Who is happier than me –
Come O Darling, sooth your ears
With the blissful songs of a happy person.
You should be able to smile for a while amid routine sufferings.
Let us all sing for a single day ignoring the melancholy

Homesickness
Text: 韦瀚章 Wei Hanzhang (1905-1993).

Green, slender willow branches grow fast.
All Souls' Day has just become the past
Leaning against the rail,
A lonely soul is like a lost boat,
Nowhere to sail.
A miserable cuckoo
keeps crying over the dome,
Calling for return to its home
This arouses ripples of an emotional wave,
And the will of being a homesick slave
Asking a fallen flower floating with the river,
"Whether to south will you go?"
If yes, I would like to go with you.

Cry Out – Lullaby
Text: Anna Volynska (born 1962)

Sofia Bolonna writes: "This is based on the life of a Ukrainian Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. I am the character of his mother, also named Sofia."

"My children... I cry over you. I failed to protect you. I failed to save you. My helplessness, forgive me for it. This world is so cruel... Oh, I lulled and lulled this new cradle, my children, my sons right from under my heart... Stefan died a babe. Young passed away Yuriy... I'd rather be lying in the earth instead of you, my sons... Oh, lull o lull, cradle made of nut, a mother's joy it shall not grow, no longer it shall. Leon was murdered beside his home by bolsheviks - "saviours". He dug his own grave. Inhumane tormentors forced him to dig the hole... Oleksandr was tortured to death by Gestapo. In prison struggled away Clymenthius. My children! Why does death haunt you?! How painful it is to give your children to the earth. Cannot protect them. Cannot save them. Sleep, my children... Mother can only protect your eternal sleep with her prayer. Sleep, children... sleep... children…"

ORATORIO ENSEMBLE

The Undergraduate Oratorio Ensemble was founded in 2003 for young singers to experience solo and ensemble repertoire from the great oratorio masterworks. Since that time, the definition of oratorio has evolved beyond these Euro-centric Christian origins of giving moral instruction for societal regulation. Today's program celebrates that it is a global medium for magnificence, mourning, worship transformation, and universal divinity.

The group's exciting vocal artists offer more personalized interpretations through their own legacy, language, and chosen literature, breaking from rigid traditional forms. They will continue their performance explorations with the Canadian premiere of Christof Giovanni Lidarti's 1774 oratorio *Ester*, sung in Hebrew at Kiever Synagogue on March 1, and with personalized legacy programming at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre on March 23rd.